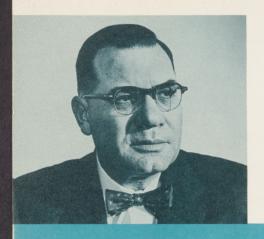
Agricultural Life



Featured in this issue

HOW MEXICO LENDS ITS HANDS TO SAVE CALIFORNIA'S CROPS

March 1957 Vol. I – No. 1



EDITORIAL

by Lloyd Yount, Citrus Grower

$2\frac{1}{2}$ billion a year for all Californians

It is fitting that California which leads all states in the Nation with an annual farm income of more than $\$2\frac{1}{2}$ billion is taking the lead in an important new agricultural enterprise.

With this maiden issue of AGRICULTURAL LIFE, farmers of California, through their organizations and with the help of an editorial board composed of typical California farmers, are launching a new medium of communication between themselves and their neighbors who live and earn their living in the cities and towns of the State.

AGRICULTURAL LIFE is not a public periodical in the strict sense. It carries no advertising, has no special mailing privileges. But it is devoted exclusively to the public welfare.

I know, because I am a farmer myself, that the farm people sponsoring this publication sincerely believe that the prosperity of every citizen and the continued growth of our State depend in a large measure upon our ability to weld a stronger bond of understanding between those who produce, those who process, and those who consume the fruits of our soil.

Understanding is built on knowledge, on truth, on facts, not on propaganda. And it is the goal of AGRICULTURAL LIFE to provide its readers with this basis of better understanding by taking them into the countryside through word and picture so they may see for themselves how their farmer-neighbors think, work, and live.

This first issue is devoted largely to the story of the "bracero," the friend in our fields from south of the border. It tells of the service he performs for and the care he receives from the organized citrus growers of the State. It is a fascinating story of international fellowship.

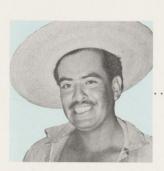
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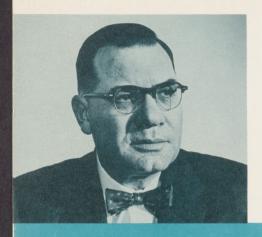
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Send it to a friend

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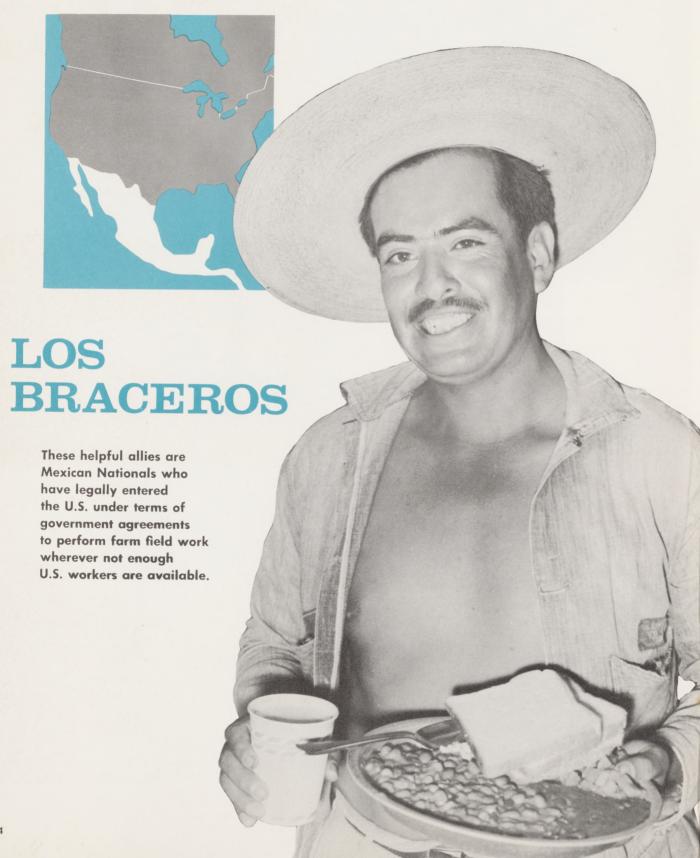
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Our Southern Neighbor Lends its Hands



In Spanish, the word "bracero" means literally "arm man." In Mexico, it distinguishes one who works with his arms – or hands.

In plain everyday USA farm lingo, it spells 'lifesaver,' for "los braceros" are the surplus farm hands of Mexico who first left their homes and crossed the border during World War II. They were brought over to help U.S. farmers meet wartime demands for all-out farm production at a time when Uncle Sam's own farm workers were busy making and shooting guns.

When the war was over and so many of our farm workers stayed in the city, these "arm men" from Mexico had to be called back to save crops that might otherwise have rotted on the ground. Today, wherever our own workers can't meet the demand, they still come, under the strictest kind of supervision by their own and by our government.

But helpful as the braceros have been to their northern farm brethren, they have taken home at least as many benefits as they brought to this country. In the generally enlightened citrus industry of California, where braceros are housed, fed, protected, and paid in a way that matches the best provided our own agricultural workers, many a provident Mexican National contract worker has returned home after a couple of contract terms with a string of advantages he could not have accumulated by many years' work in his native land.

Foremost among his achievements is sound health brought about by a nutritionally-balanced and plentiful diet of his native dishes plus fresh eggs, milk and fruits. His improved physical well-being is maintained by competent medical care and treatment. On the job injury or illness is covered by exactly the same compensation insurance provided by state law for U.S. workers. Non-occupational sickness and accidents are taken care of by insurance provided to the bracero at cost.

In addition, every bracero's life is insured against death from any cause for about 17,000 pesos, a substantial sum for his dependents in Mexico. The cost, according to Armand C. Feichtmeir, insurance underwriter, "is at a rate less than half that which Uncle Sam charged his G.I.'s for life insurance during World War II.

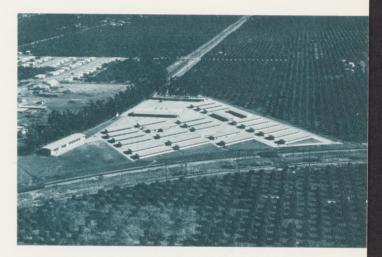
In money, the braceros' gains are even more spectacular. At home, the typical one earns 10 pesos a day (about 80 cents). In the citrus industry generally, his average wage runs from $80 \, earnowne 60 \, earnowne 6$

The contract also requires the farmer-employer to provide approved housing at no charge to the bracero. Food, under terms of the contract, is to be provided at cost, but in no case can the daily rate exceed \$1.75 a day.

continued on page 6



First U.S. stop for the bracero is reception center where he is checked physically, his personnel records made, and he is readied for his bus trip to a farm labor camp.



The bracero's farm home when assigned to California citrus growers is one of the many modern, clean and well-equipped units like this one at Fullerton.



In citrus, the bracero is used chiefly for fruit picking. He is carefully trained and is assigned to work for many growers so his employment is steady.

What's more, the employer pays each worker's transportation from reception center to housing headquarters and return, plus meals and lodging enroute, and provides free transportation between camp and worksite.

Small wonder, then, that the average bracero in the citrus industry generally earns nine times the salary he would have made at home. Even with what he sends home to care for his family and what he spends here for personal expenses, he often has enough money left to buy a farm when he returns home.

As one bracero in a Ventura county citrus housing unit put it, "I could not have earned enough extra to buy a farm in my whole lifetime in my country."

With all these facts a matter of record, it is difficult to understand why so much misinformation has been circulated about the bracero program.

Perhaps it is because the public has had trouble distinguishing between the illegal "wetback" and the legal contract worker who has now entirely replaced him on most farms.

Perhaps it is because some have found it to their advantage to seek out and publicize an occasional employer shortcoming in handling braceros. Or, it may be the good old American tradition for headlining the bad and taking the good for granted. The wonder is that there are so few soft spots in a program involving so many workers throughout the nation.

But, whatever the reason for past criticism, it is obviously no longer justified even on a broad basis, and certainly not in a majority of the citrus industry where officials of both the Mexican and U.S. governments agree the handling of braceros is outstanding.

Glenn Brockway, regional director, U.S. Bureau of Employment Security, whose staff is constantly visiting labor camps to check handling of workers throughout much of the West, says:

"With notable exceptions, the farmers of California deserve a great deal of credit for their desire to comply with and in some cases actually exceed the terms of the migrant labor agreement with Mexico. "The citrus growers of the state, by and large, are demonstrating that it pays to go beyond a strict interpretation of the contract in housing, safe transportation, good food, free recreation, and steady work. They are to be complimented on the example they set for other farmers."

Speaking of the quality of citrus housing accommodations for the bracero, Lowell Hofland, a district representative for the California Housing Authority, commented:

"Some of the units could well be placed on any highway in the United States and used for motels. The kitchens found in these camps, if we wish to call them that, are as good or better than some of our first class hotels."

From the Mexican point of view, Ernesto A. Romero, consul in charge of the Bracero Division of the Consulate General at Los Angeles, a veteran of the consular service and of the bracero program, says:

"We are all pleased with the steady progress that has been made in the migrant labor program during the past five years or so. Many people deserve the credit – the officials of both governments who draw up and supervise the terms of the agreement, and the farmers, who have organized many large associations which have, in turn, improved the overall functioning of the program.

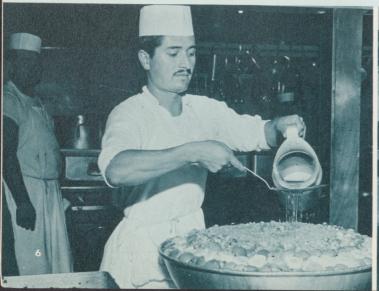
"This improvement includes such things as well-regulated allocation of workers; accounting systems; supervision of working conditions; prompt medical attention and settlement of claims, and that all-important item, centralized housing and feeding.

"In the area supervised by our Consulate General, there are many modern or highly-improved camps, notably those recently built by the citrus industry. Year by year, our people report better facilities in these camps and higher financial returns for their hard work in harvesting fruit and produce."

What do citrus growers themselves think about all these compliments?

"They make us feel good, of course," says A. J. McFadden, prominent citrus grower and farm leader, "but we enjoy a far greater return than praise when these good workers who use their arms and hands to help us out, are treated in return with a fair hand and a warm heart."

Hearty, nutritionally-balanced meals of native dishes plus fresh eggs, milk and fruit are prepared in spotless kitchens and served at cost in modern dining rooms.



Recreation is an important key to contented workers. Here, a group of braceros enjoy soft drinks and a game of pool in a Ventura county citrus unit social hall.





a look ahead

California's farm worker situation in 1957

by Edward F. Hayes, Chief Farm Placement Service State of California

Moderate improvement is the term which most characterizes the California farm outlook for 1957. Production of a number of important crops, including cotton, rice, strawberries, sugar beets, lemons, apricots, and grapes (except raisin) is expected to increase over that of 1956.

California farm employment averaged about 467,500 during 1956, slightly below the 1955 average. Low was 397,000 in mid-March; high 578,000 in mid-September.

Exceptionally favorable weather during the closing months of 1956 permitted rapid completion of late harvests, especially cotton, sugar beets, walnuts, and olives, putting farm activities well ahead of the usual seasonal pattern. Because of this development, farm labor demand will be much lower during the first quarter of 1957 than during the same period of 1956.

The 1957 production outlook is not the same for all California crops. Record packs of cling peaches and tomatoes and an exceptional prune crop in 1956 seem likely to be followed by lower production in 1957. Consequently, lesser seasonal labor needs are anticipated during the August-September-October peak of harvest period.

A small reduction in seasonal farm labor requirements during 1957 will have little impact on the adequacy of the domestic labor supply to meet the needs of California farmers. The supply of domestic workers for farm work fell short during 1956 by slightly more than 100,000 at the September harvest peak. This deficiency was made up by bringing foreign workers into California under contract as provided by Public Law 78. Similar large numbers of these supplemental workers from other countries will be needed during 1957.

Despite the rapid increase in the California labor force accompanying the State's burgeoning population since 1950, the domestic agricultural labor force has grown very little – altogether about 5 percent between 1950 and 1956. The rate of this increase has declined in recent years as new record levels of non-farm employment have been reached month after month, and unemployment has sunk to generally minimal levels. Non-agricultural job opportunities have pulled farm workers and potential farm workers, especially young men from farm families and immigrants from Central states, into better paying, steadier, and usually less physically demanding non-farm work.

An examination of the major components of California's domestic farm labor force shows the following developments during recent years (1953-1956):

- a. Farmers and unpaid family members have had little change in number;
- b. Year-round farm workers have increased very slightly
 at an average annual rate of about one percent;
- c. Local farm workers have increased slightly at an average annual rate of about 1.7 percent; and
- d. Non-local farm workers (the interstate and the intrastate migrants) have been declining steadily – at an average annual rate of almost 8 percent.

Slack in the growth of the local farm labor supply and the steady attrition in numbers of migrant farm workers to do the seasonal work have been met by the importation of increasingly larger numbers of contract foreign workers. If the high level of economic activity in the non-farm sector of the economy does not accelerate the flow of domestic workers out of the farm labor market, the rate of increase in the use of supplemental foreign workers may show its first sign of slowing during 1957.



Supply of domestic farm workers fell short of need by about 17%. Foreign contract workers made up this deficiency. About the same number will be needed in 1957.

The Laws Are Strict

and So Is Compliance

What Uncle Sam Requires:

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation must be provided by the employer at his own expense. If by rail, bus or airline, Federal and State safety regulations apply. If employer uses private vehicles, they must meet rigid standards of safety and comfort.

HOUSING AND LODGING

The employer is required to provide, at no cost to the worker, clean lodgings suitable to the climate, equal in quality to those provided for domestic workers in the area, and fully complying with strict state regulations.

WAGES

A Mexican worker must be paid the higher of these rates: -1) the rate shown in his contract; 2) the rate prevailing in the area for the kind of work he is doing at the time. Domestic workers must be offered this same rate.

What Citrus Growers Provide:

For long hauls, the same buses that travel our highways in commercial service are chartered. Workers are carried between jobs and camp in specially-constructed vehicles with comfortable seats, covered for weather protection and manned by trained drivers.



Clean, comfortable quarters like these in California are provided in the many centralized citrus industry housing units.

In some citrus areas, braceros earn as much as \$1.25 per hour due to incentive, or piece-work pay systems which reward those with skill and energy. While acquiring experience and dexterity new workers receive a guaranteed minimum.

Each Mexican worker must be given a copy of his payroll record, in English and Spanish, for each payroll period. It must show total earnings, rate of pay, hours worked, periods when meals were furnished without cost, and an itemization of all deductions.

MEALS

If an employer has facilities for providing meals, the Mexican worker has the choice of obtaining meals there or preparing his own. If he chooses to eat meals provided by the employer, charges must be at actual cost to the employer, but not to exceed \$1.75 for three meals per day.

EMPLOYMENT GUARANTY

In contracts of six weeks or longer, the employer guarantees that the Mexican worker will be given the opportunity to work on at least three-fourths of the work days of the total contract period, including extensions. Six weeks is generally the minimum contract period.

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HEALTH PROTECTION

Mexican workers must be given at employer expense the same medical care and compensation for occupational injury and disease as required for domestic workers by the law of the state in which they are working. Approved non-occupational health, accident and life insurance must be provided, but at employee expense.

Maintenance of such records and delivery of copies to braceros is standard practice in the citrus industry because the organizations freely exchange ideas and methods. In addition, many associations employ field men to assist nationals with their problems.



The quality of meals served in the citrus industry housing units is so good that only a handful of men prepare their own meals.

By careful planning and organizing growers into groups for the purpose of contracting and housing Mexican Nationals, the citrus industry has been able to provide almost continuous employment except for weather interruptions, as well as offer superior quarters and food.



Medical care begins at time of entry and continues throughout the contract period for all citrus braceros.

Agricultural Life spends a day with a young bu

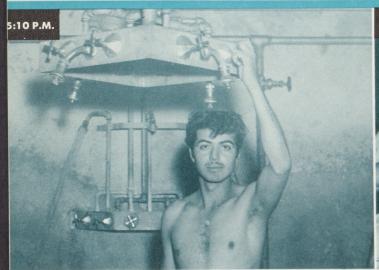




Most of the time when the alarm goes off I am already awake for we are farm people and used to getting up early. After a breakfast of eggs, mush, tortillas and coffee or milk, I ride to the grove where I will work . . .

Lemons are carefully picked by size, not color, and it takes a little while to catch on. So when I was learning I was paid a flat rate per hour, but after I got faster I was paid by the box to help me make more money . . .

7:00





It doesn't take me long to get off my dirty clothes and get into the shower. Lots of hot water and plenty of soap are just what I need to wash the dirt away and take the tired out of my bones before dinner... This is the best time of the day. Tonight we had my favorite dish, a hot stew made of green and red chilis and cracklings, Mexican Spaghetti, fruit salad, tortillas and chocolate. Sure, I had seconds . . . and thirds . . .

g bracero



My name is Policarpio Ruiz. I am 19 years old and come from San Pedro Lagunillas, Nayarit, Mexico. I came into this country on May.22, 1956 with my father. We were both approved as contract workers and permitted to come together to this camp near Oxnard, California. My contract is with Ventura County Citrus Growers Committee Inc. and they arrange for me to pick lemons in many places in the valley. My father has now returned to Mexico, but I stayed here to make more money. I like it here and you will see why when you see how I live and work each day . . .





While we are eating our lunch of tacos or sandwiches, cake and fruit, we are often visited by Senor Behar from the association office. He was raised in Mexico and he helps us with our problems and answers questions . . .

Believe me, as our bus rolls into the camp yard at the end of work I am glad to get out and get cleaned up for the best meal of the day. The buses as you can see are covered and we all sit on comfortable seats . . .





This is the time I take life easy. I write letters or read in my room. Sometimes I go to the recreation hall and watch television or play checkers and pool. We are now forming a soccer team to play against other camps . . .

Devotion is a part of the daily life of my people and the camp provides a shrine in the dining hall where I can kneel and pray and give thanks at each mealtime or just before I get ready to go to bed.

Comparative farm wage rates for California and other sections of the U.S.

Average monthly earnings with House*



*Latest figures from USDA, Agricultural Marketing service for January 1, 1957.

Average monthly earnings with Board and Room*







"No group of workers in the United States, however large or well-organized, enjoys as complete and comprehensive a program of non-occupational accident and health insurance at as low a cost as does the Mexican National Agricultural Worker."

Strong words, but the man who said them is in a position to know what he's talking about.

He is Armand C. Feichtmeir, Los Angeles insurance broker, whose organization wrote its first policy for a Mexican National agricultural worker in October, 1950 and up until last September had insured every bracero who entered this country through the El Centro, California, reception center.

The entire administration of the off-the-job health, accident and life insurance program for braceros on the Pacific Coast has been handled by his office and he has records to back up his statements. His claims files read like a television script.

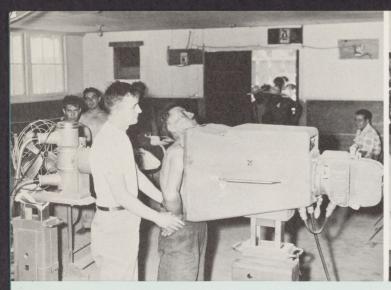
Take case No. L-2105105:

Jose Campos Gonzales was stricken with a mysterious illness four days after entering this country. With the limited facilities available in the small town in the state of Washington where Gonzales was hospitalized, his physician was unable to make a positive diagnosis. He advised the insurance company that the man was near death and recommended immediate removal to a hospital with complete facilities.

Gonzales was flown immediately to California where proper diagnosis and treatment brought about complete recovery.

Though the extra service and attention which saved his life was not required by the terms of the policy, the company did not hesitate when the man's life hung in the balance and it assumed all expense which added up to \$2,070.11.

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X-rays taken to check for tuberculosis are one of the many precautions exercised by United States officials to permit only the healthier braceros to work here.



Plenty to eat of the kind of food he likes and thrives on, plus comfortable housing and modern sanitation make the bracero a good risk. One group gained 9 lbs. per man.

The coverage which cared for Gonzales is low-cost group insurance carried by all braceros under terms of the contract approved by the Mexican and U.S. government. Both the reliability of the insurance company and the terms of the policy must be approved by the Mexican government before the farmer-employer can purchase it and deduct the cost from the bracero's earnings.

As provided in the contract, the worker himself must bear the cost of his non-occupational insurance, but the employer must shoulder the entire cost of on-the-job protection and the coverage must be at least equal to that provided for our own agricultural workers under state law.

Notices are posted throughout all camps, advising braceros of their protection and telling them where to report illness or accident. In many housing units a medical dispensary is maintained. Doctors and nurses keep regular hours at each unit and are on call around the clock. In the larger units, Spanish-speaking doctors and nurses are on duty full time.

If a bracero prefers he may go to any doctor of his own choice. More than 500 private physicians treated braceros in 1955 for ailments covered by their group health policies.

The group life insurance policy is a very important part of the Mexican National worker's program for family protection. In the event of his death from any cause his family receives almost 17,000 pesos, an amount sufficient to care for their needs in Mexico for many years.

What about the cost of this protection?

Here, too, the bracero is fortunate, according to Feichtmeir.

The men are screened before our government permits them to enter this country, and they receive excellent care and enjoy good living conditions while here. This, plus the short term of coverage required and careful administration of the program, make it possible for the bracero to buy his insurance at a cost lower than U.S. workers and at less than half the rate of G.I. life insurance during World War II.

Preventive medical care and treatment of off-the-job injury is provided by the company which carries the group health and life insurance. Physicians visit regularly.

In larger citrus housing units, clinics are manned by full-time staff of doctors and nurses. In smaller ones a room is set aside for use by visiting medical staff.





Volleyball and soccer are the bracero's favorite outdoor sports. Both intramural and inter-camp contests keep morale high.

Not By Bread Alone

Ask any traveling salesman what he dislikes most about his job and chances are he'll tell you it's those depressing times when he is caught for a weekend in a tiny strange town.

Now, take the elements of this situation and add barriers of language and strange customs, and you'll see how the bracero in this land could be a lonely man, a restless worker, without a helping hand from his employer.

In the citrus industry of the Southwest, helping the Mexican National worker build barriers against loneliness, homesickness, and restlessness has become standard practice.

"It's the human thing to do – and it pays," says George Graham of Citrus Growers, Inc. of Anaheim, California.

"We have found that intelligent planning of recreational facilities as well as providing good food and housing, is an important morale builder. Proper recreation means happier workers. Happy workers are better workers. And good workers benefit everyone. They earn more for themselves, to spend and save. They give the employer a greater return for his wage dollar. And they exercise the care in selection and handling of fruit that puts better citrus products on the consumer's table."

Braceros are a devout people. Providing a place for daily worship feeds the inner man.

In the larger camps professional entertainers are brought in to celebrate special events.







The main gate to the Goleta Lemon Association housing facility for Mexican National Workers. Note paved drives, landscaping and large area devoted to windows.

"Good housing pays off in reduced labor costs,"

says: Granvel Caster, Mgr. Goleta Lemon Assn.

Since the days of the Spanish Dons, men have come to see the loveliness of the countryside surrounding Santa Barbara, California, and many stayed on to help create this city where beauty is as basic as bread in community thinking.

This is why the almost 200 members of Goleta Lemon Association don't think it the least bit unusual that their camp on the northern outskirts of the city, which houses their fruit pickers, looks more like a modern housing unit than a camp for agricultural workers.

The buildings are grouped around a central court on a three-acre plot, completely fenced. Painted a soft green with cream trim and surrounded by lawn, shrubs and flowers, the camp matches the adjoining office and packing house buildings and the whole blends into surrounding foothills and groves with scarcely a hint of the efficient industry it houses.

But the clean neatness of the camp is more than skin deep. Inside walls are enameled and clean. Windows are large, made of steel sash and screened. Double walls keep the dormitories warmer in winter, cooler in summer. The courtyard is black-topped to eliminate dust and mud, and sidewalks connect buildings where pavement gives way to grass.

A registered nurse keeps regular hours daily in a special room equipped for medical care of residents at Goleta unit. A physician also makes daily visits.

A corner of the large dining hall at Goleta Lemon's unit for braceros. Residents are served family style; menu features native dishes and steak, chops and chicken.





Granvel Caster, general manager of the association, and Harold Schieferle, assistant manager, proudly show visitors about the camp and packing house, passing along details as the tour progresses.

The camp, devoted exclusively to the 300 to 400 Mexican National workers who contract directly with the association to handle the almost year-round job of lemon picking, was built and is owned by the association.

It is managed by Fidel and Ezequiel Villasenor who also manage other "bracero" camps in Southern California. The genial Ezequiel, a native of Mexico and educated as an aeronautical engineer in the United States, lives in Santa Barbara and is especially proud of the Goleta Camp which he designed.

"It is amazing," he says, "the rivalry that exists between growers, association officers, and camp managers and personnel of the different citrus groups to see who can run the best camps and serve the best meals. I don't think any other camp can touch our dormitory units, washroom, shower and toilet facilities for cleanliness and convenience. We have as well-equipped kitchens and dining halls as there are in the business, and I don't know of any camp that serves more and better food.

"Of course, I may be prejudiced," he smiles.

Prejudice or not, the facts bear him out.

Kitchen equipment is stainless steel and includes modern gas ranges, forced air ventilation, walk-in refrigerator, garbage disposal, and automatic dishwasher and sterilizer.

Dining room tables are formica covered and the men sit in individual chairs. Food is served family style and in unlimited quantities. The main dish is served from the central area to keep it hot, but the men may come back as many times as they wish to refill their plates.

Menus include steak, chops, chicken and shortribs, plus all of the native Mexican dishes. Eggs are cooked to order for breakfast, an unlimited supply of fresh milk is placed on the tables, and the men have a choice of bread or tortillas with their meals. Lunches for the field consist of three sandwiches or six tacos, fresh fruit and cookies. Hot drinks are provided for the men to carry in vacuum bottles.

Other important features of the camp are the recreation room for games, letter-writing, television viewing or visiting, the recreation fields for outdoor games, and the medical dispensary served by a physician and nurse who visit at regular hours and are on call 24 hours. This care is provided by the low-cost insurance which the men carry under their contracts.

Hard-headed businessmen sometimes question whether all these extras beyond the minimum requirements of the law pay off. They do, of course, in the association members' personal satisfaction and pride in doing a job as well as it can be done, but they also pay off in reduced labor costs, as Manager Caster told members and guests at a recent open house:

"Erection of this modern housing unit is in line with the principal objective of the Goleta Association, that of providing grower-members with the most complete and economical service possible. Though in use only a few months, it is already apparent that the facility has given employees a new sense of well-being directly reflected by an increase in their efficiency during the working day."

Though this Goleta Camp is the newest and most modern of the citrus camps, and may be a bit more attractive than those of strict functional design because of the Santa Barbaran's traditional insistence upon beauty in all he surveys, it is matched in comfort and efficiency by many others in the industry.

As P. H. Greene, editor of CALIFORNIA CITROGRAPH, points out:

"While the Goleta camp is an outstanding example, such an approach to housing requirements of farm workers is general throughout the citrus industry and aside from direct benefits does much towards promoting international goodwill."

Dormitory units at Goleta are clean, airy, and uncrowded. Painted walls, good beds and plenty of blankets are features the braceros say they like best, next to good food.

In the recreation room at Goleta Lemon Association facility braceros enjoy television, games, letter-writing or a soft drink after a day spent picking lemons.





How much do you know about your nation's agriculture

Agricultural Life FARM QUIZ



Its troubles, virtues, growth.

Agriculture

- 1. What is National Farm-City Week and why is it celebrated?
- **2.** What do most authorities agree will eventually solve our surplus farm products problem?
- **3.** What is a basic crop in the eyes of the Federal Government?
- **4.** In addition to federal income taxes, how much do U.S. farmers pay each year in state and local taxes?
- **5.** Are farmers exporting more or less of their products each year?

California Agriculture

Its oddities, importance, economy.

- 1. How much does California agriculture contribute each year directly and indirectly to the state's economy?
- 2. How many different commercial crops does California produce?
- **3.** California produces more than 90% of the nation's supply of 11 crops. Can you name at least six?
- **4.** How do California farm wage rates compare with the national average?
- **5.** How much do California farmers spend each year for supplies, equipment, living expenses, etc.?

Agricultural Life

Its contents—
facts from this issue.

- 1. What penalty does a farmer suffer when he employs Mexican Nationals when qualified U.S. workers are available?
- **2.** How do wage rates paid Mexican National workers compare with those paid to domestic workers for similar work?
- **3.** How much does a Mexican National worker pay for his room and board?
- **4.** How many Mexican Nationals may a farmer employ?
- **5.** What is the daily highlight in the life of Policarpio Ruiz?

U. S. Agriculture

1. National Farm-City Week has been proclaimed by the President each fall, beginning in 1955. President Eisenhower's proclamation in 1956 called for public recognition of the contributions of the farmer to the nation's economy and concluded, "The public should understand the needs, problems, and opportunities of all the people of the United States whose main concern is agriculture." 2. Our growing population, estimated to reach 220 million people in 1957. and to increase consumption of farm products by 50% in the next 20 years. 3. A "basic" crop is one designated by law as so important to the economy of the country that its price is supported by the government. At present, they are: wheat, cotton, rice, corn, peanuts and tobacco. 4. Farm property taxes have been climbing steadily for the past several years. Latest rise was 7% with a record \$927 million collected in 1955. 5. Though exports of farm products are down from the highs of war years, recent government effort, more liberal import policies, and greater foreign economic activity have jumped farm exports to \$4 billion this year, highest in 5 years.

California Agriculture

1. California's farmers contribute directly more than $$2\frac{1}{2}$ billion a year to the state's economy. The total swells to

\$10 billion by the time these farm products are processed, handled, and shipped. **2.** California produces 269 commercial farm crops – more than any other state. **3.** California produces more than 90% of the nation's lemons, almonds, artichokes, walnuts, olives, dates, prunes, tomatoes, lettuce, figs, and brussels sprouts. **4.** California farm wages are over 50% higher than the national average. **5.** California farmers spend about \$2.4 billion every year.

Agricultural Life

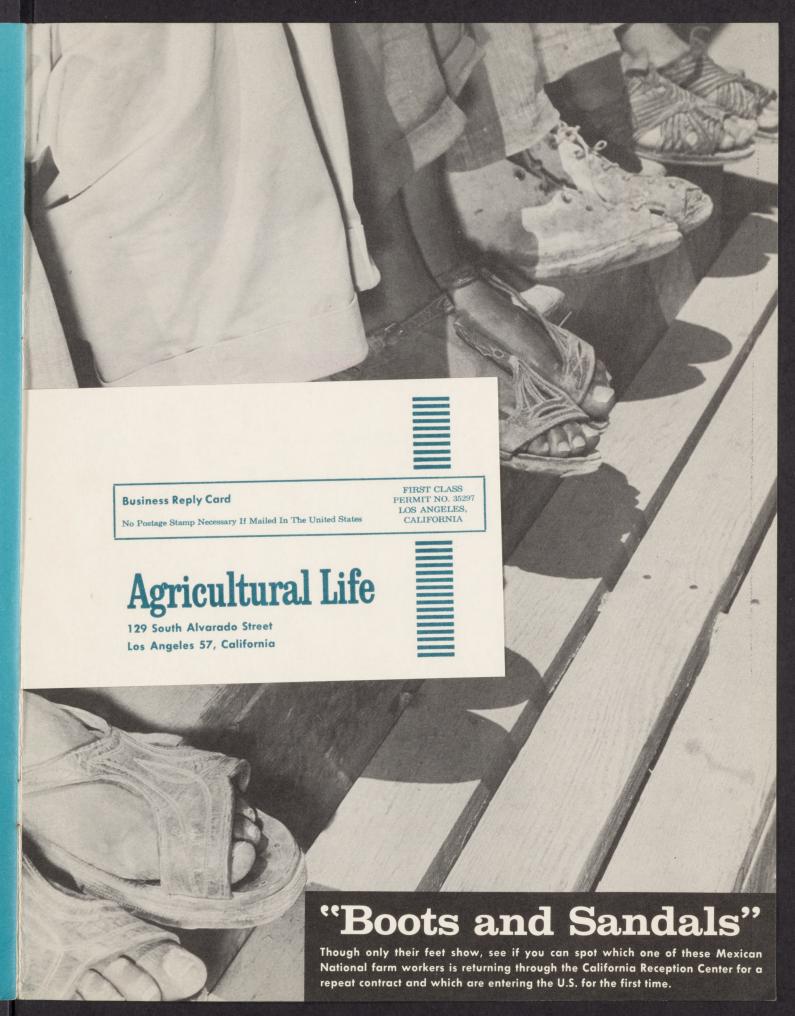
1. An employer may lose the Mexican Nationals in his employ and his right to contract them if it is found he is not giving preference to qualified U.S. agricultural workers.

2. Mexican Nationals must be paid at a rate no lower than the employer pays his domestic workers for similar work, and domestic workers must be offered a rate no lower than that paid to Mexican workers.

3. He pays nothing for his room and the use of all camp facilities. His meals are to be at cost, but in no case more than \$1.75 for 3 meals a day.

4. As many as he wishes as long as all practicable sources of our own workers have been exhausted. Mexican Nationals are imported only because a sufficient number of U.S. workers is not available.

5. Policarpio Ruiz, young bracero who is the leading character in the picture story on pages 10 and 11, says dinner time is the best part of his day.



How much do you know about your nation's agriculture





Its troubles, virtues, growth.

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